



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of: **Steven C. Robertson,** Group Art Unit: **2165**
Serial No.: **09/324,601** Examiner: **Fadok, Mark A.**
Filed on: **06/02/99**
Title: **System and Method for Providing Electronic Multi-Merchant Gift Certificate & Contribution Brokering Services Over a Distributed Network**

AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

Sir:

Applicant responds to the Office action dated 05/14/02 to which a response is due 8/14/02. Applicant requests a Continuance of Examination and is enclosing the SB0030 Form and check for the required fees.

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In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-4, 8, and 19-22 as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for providing an electronic gift certificate service over a distributed network, with the capability to support multiple online merchants of any size and from any net-accessible location in the world, the system comprising [of]:
 - a plurality of Merchant sites connected to the distributed network, each Merchant site running at least one service application to provide an online service to users over the distributed network;
 - a plurality of Manufacturer sites connected to the distributed network, each Manufacturer site running at least one service application to provide an online service to users over the distributed network;
 - a plurality of user computers connected to the distributed network, each user computer running at least one client application for accessing online service of the Merchant sites;
 - a Gift Certificate Authority site connected to the plurality of Merchant and Manufacturer sites, the gift certificate site including a user database, a manufacturer database, and a merchant database containing authentication information of registrants, the registered users accessing the Merchant sites from the user computers over the distributed network;